

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2014

497V0116

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. **1002**

Introduced by: Representatives Sly, Dryden, Duvall, Hajek, and Tyler and Senators Tidemann, Hunhoff (Jean), Sutton, Van Gerpen, and Welke at the request of the Interim Education Funding Formula Study Committee

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing the teacher shortage in this state and the
2 difficulties school districts in South Dakota face in attracting and retaining qualified
3 teachers.

4 WHEREAS, school districts across the state, and especially in the rural areas, are struggling
5 to keep good teachers and to fill teacher vacancies; and finding teachers for mathematics,
6 science, special education and other areas of critical need is particularly difficult; and

7 WHEREAS, this shortage is due to a variety of reasons including the financial hardships that
8 many school districts have recently endured which caused them to ask teachers to do more with
9 less, and in some instances, to freeze or even cut teacher pay for one or more years, and to
10 reduce the benefits provided to teachers; and

11 WHEREAS, fewer and fewer college students in the state are seeking education degrees
12 with plans to enter the teaching profession, and many of those already in the teaching profession
13 are leaving it to pursue other opportunities; and

14 WHEREAS, the salaries paid to teachers in some surrounding states are significantly higher



1 than the salaries paid to teachers in South Dakota, and that is enticing some of our teachers to
2 cross the state border:

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-
4 Ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
5 Dakota Legislature recognizes that teachers are in short supply in this state, and that school
6 districts of all sizes are now struggling to retain qualified teachers and to fill teacher vacancies;
7 and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Legislature joins school officials in acknowledging
9 that teachers are a highly valued resource in this state, and in exploring tuition reimbursement
10 programs and other programs or policies that could help attract more good people into the
11 teaching profession in South Dakota, and to keep the good teachers that are already here.